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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 004253

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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/FO PDAS BRADTKE, EUR/RPM, EUR/ERA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/03/2014

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SUBJECT: NAC-PSC DISCUSSION OF BOSNIA AND "OTHER BUSINESS"

REF: STATE 195305

Classified By: USEU Political Military Officer Jeremy Brenner for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: In the September 27 meeting of the NAC with the EU's Political and Security Committee (NAC-PSC), nations focused on the constructive NATO-EU cooperation in planning for the EU operation in Bosnia, and were confident the few remaining issues would soon be resolved. Ambassador Burns called for a NATO-EU joint Public Diplomacy concept for Bosnia. He also welcomed the constructive progress on the EU Battlegroups issue, while urging concrete next steps. SecGen de Hoop Scheffer recalled the NATO and EU plan to exchange permanent liaison staffs. The meeting was brief and narrow in scope, the agenda being constrained by the Cyprus-Turkey issue. End Summary.

2. (C) EU Council Secretary General Javier Solana and NATO Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer briefed on planning for EU

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Operation Althea in Bosnia and the NATO HQ Sarajevo. Notable points of discussion included:

- Norway, Turkey and Bulgaria, supported by the U.S. and several others, appealed for quick resolution on their status in the operation's Committee of Contributors. The EU chair assured them that the PSC would resolve the issue shortly. The Dutch NATO PermRep, speaking on behalf of the Presidency, said in the NAC on September 29 that the PSC meeting confirmed that all SFOR TNCs would be members of the Committee of Contributors for EUFOR.

- The UK noted that work was underway to ensure a UN Security Council Resolution was adopted in October, during the UK's UNSC Presidency;

- Finland noted its progress toward assuming the Framework nation role for Task Force North (from the U.S.), including access to Eagle Base in Tuzla, where an initial Finnish contingent had already arrived;

- Solana noted that the EU approach on operational and strategic reserves was reflected in its draft Operational Plan, and de Hoop Scheffer noted that NATO and EU staffs were working to finalize NATO-EU understandings on the subject;

- de Hoop Scheffer said another NATO-EU staff mission would visit Bosnia in early October to meet with Bosnian authorities (as the two Secretaries General had recently done);

- de Hoop Scheffer noted that NATO and EU staffs had discussed the NATO-EU "Specific Agreement" on EU use of NATO assets and capabilities, which is called for under Berlin-Plus, and indicated that once the EU formally requests assets/capabilities, NATO's reply would be in the form of the initial draft of the Agreement.

3. (C) Ambassador Burns affirmed U.S. expectations and support for a successful operation in Bosnia with the EU clearly and visibly in the lead. He stressed the importance of public diplomacy to ensure that success, and proposed that NATO and EU staffs present to the next NAC-PSC a joint NATO-EU public diplomacy concept. The UK, Turkey and Italy supported this idea, and Solana noted that he and De Hoop Scheffer were indeed addressing this subject.

4. (C) De Hoop Scheffer also recalled that NATO and the EU had affirmed in principle the proposal for EU and NATO liaison presences at, respectively, SHAPE and the EU Military Staff, and cited Bosnia as evidence of the need to speed up these permanent arrangements. (Comment: the EU Summit in June approved proposed terms of reference for these liaisons, subject within the EU to agreement on a package of papers including the EU internal "civ-mil cell" and "operations center.")

5. (C) Under any other business, Ambassador Burns welcomed the constructive, single-issue discussion of coherence and complementarity between the EU Battlegroups and NATO Response Force in the September 20 NATO-EU Capabilities Group, including the UK's non-paper for that meeting. He affirmed

U.S. support for respective capabilities initiatives so long as they upheld interoperability, non-duplication and the other principles provided for in Berlin-Plus. Accordingly, he called for a subgroup of the Capabilities Group to continue addressing the subject, and urged (supported by Turkey) that a NATO and an EU representative each brief the next NAC-PSC on the issue.

Schnabel